Inauguration of DD Kendra Studios

1272. SHRI E.M. SUDARSHANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DD Kendra Studios are ready but are not inaugurated waiting for the VIP;

(b) if so, how many of them are to be opened; and

(c) whether the studio in Madurai would be opened soon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Seven Doordarshan Studio Centres at Gangtok, Patiala, Calicut, Warangal, Madurai, Coimbatore & Rajouri would be commissioned; after requisite staff is available.

DD Transmitter in Tamil Nadu

1273. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high power transmitter for Doordarshan has been planned for Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the construction of the transmitter is in a slow phase; and

(c) by when the transmitter would be set up and become operational?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Construction of transmitter building in progress. Transmitter equipment have been ordered. Tenders for tower work have been received and evaluated. Further action for placement of order is in progress. HPT project at Dharmapuri is expected to be completed during 2005-06.

Setting up of FM Radio Stations

1274. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FM Radio Stations set up by AIR, State-wise, as on the 31st March, 2004;